



# **Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature Through Peace and War at West Point**

*Elizabeth D. Samet*

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Elizabeth D. Samet and her students learned to romanticize the army "from the stories of their fathers and from the movies." For Samet, it was the old World War II movies she used to watch on TV, while her students grew up on *Braveheart* and *Saving Private Ryan*. Unlike their teacher, however, these students, cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point, have decided to turn make-believe into real life.

West Point is a world away from Yale, where Samet attended graduate school and where nothing sufficiently prepared her for teaching literature to young men and women who were training to fight a war. Intimate and poignant, *Soldier's Heart* chronicles the various tensions inherent in that life as well as the ways in which war has transformed Samet's relationship to literature. Fighting in Iraq, Samet's former students share what books and movies mean to them—the poetry of Wallace Stevens, the fiction of Virginia Woolf and J. M. Coetzee, the epics of Homer, or the films of James Cagney. Their letters in turn prompt Samet to wonder exactly what she owes to cadets in the classroom.

Samet arrived at West Point before September 11, 2001, and has seen the academy change dramatically. In *Soldier's Heart*, she reads this transformation through her own experiences and those of her students. Forcefully examining what it means to be a civilian teaching literature at a military academy, Samet also considers the role of women in the army, the dangerous tides of religious and political zeal roiling the country, the uses of the call to patriotism, and the cult of sacrifice she believes is currently paralyzing national debate. Ultimately, Samet offers an honest and original reflection on the relationship between art and life.

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Why? Because this Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature Through Peace and War at West Point is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have got such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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